3. Gemmological Institute of India, Mumbai (Maharashtra).

4. Gem Testing Laboratory, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

5. Pangam Enterprises, Pune, Maharashtra.

6. Gem Testing Laboratory, CPL, GSI, Calcutta (West Bengal).

7. Gem Testing Laboratory, Madras (Tamil Nadu).

8. Sri Ramkrishna Gem Testing Laboratory, Salem (Tamil Nadu).

9. Gem Testing Laboratory, Trivandrum (Kerala).

10. Gem Testing Laboratory, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh).

11. Indian Diamond Institute, Surat.

12. Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai (Maharashtra).

13. S.G. Jhaveri Centre for Diamond Technology, Mumbai (Maharashtra).

14. St. Xaviers College, Mumbai (Maharashtra).

(b) to (d). There is no proposal with the Government to set up more Testing Centres for Gems. Indian Gemmological Institute caters to the requirements of Gem Trade in Delhi.

[English]

Setting up of Brand Acquisition Fund

4560. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Brand Acquisition Fund;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposed fund; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help in promoting Indian brands in the International markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c). No such fund has been set up by the Ministry of Commerce as on date. However, it is proposed that once the India Brand Equity Fund (IBEF) is fully operational, a proposal for setting up a Brand Acquisition Fund will be put up to its Board of Trustees for examination.

Export of Imported Goods

4561. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new customs provisions which allow import of goods without licence if the goods are to be re-exported with a value addition of 10% or more;

(b) whether the new provisions are being misused by many importers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check the misuse of the provision; and

(d) the action taken against the fraudulent firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d). There is no provision in the Customs Act, 1962, permitting import of goods without a licence if the goods are to be re-exported with a value addition of 10% or more. However, as per Paragraph 128 A of the Exim Policy 1992-97 (RE: March, 1996), any item appearing in the Negative List of imports or Negative List of Exports (except prohibited items in either list) may be imported for re-export without a licence subject to the conditions that (a) there is a minimum value addition of 10%; (b) the goods are imported under Customs Bond; (c) import and re-export are made from the same Customs Bonded premises; and (d) the goods are not taken outside the Customs Bonded premises. Thus adequate safeguards have been provided to prevent any possible misuse.

Exports to Gulf

4562. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that China poses stiff challenges to Indian Goods in Gulf;

(b) whether the India's exports in textiles, garments, plastics and rubber sectors have come down in comparison to Chinese exports where India had been the key supplier in the past;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and